(e) the number of play-fields required for holding the national games?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) The States where the National Games were held are indicated below year-wise:—

1. New Delhi (formerly Union Territory) : 1985
2. Kerala : 1987
3. Maharashtra: 1994

(b) The Fourth National Games are scheduled to be held in Bangalore and Mysore (Karnataka) during December, 1996 (8th to 19th December, 1996). The Fifth National Games have been allotted to Manipur by the Indian Olympic Association. The Games are to be held in 1997, dates not yet finalised.

(c) The Government of Karnataka is creating new facilities main indoor stadia and main outdoor stadia within the Sri Kanteerave Sports Complex, an indoor stadium at Koramangla, a Hockey Stadium for Bangalore and an indoor sports complex in Mysore. Besides, the Government is also modernising the axisting facilities at Wilson Garcden Stadium and BCC Ground, Vidyapeetha Circle in Bangalore as well as an outdoor stadium in Mysore, As per information received from the Government of Karnataka, all sports infrastructures for the National Games will be ready by October November, 1996.

As intimated by the State Government of Manipur, the construction work undertaken by them for main stadium with 8-lane synthetic track, Hockey field (with synthetic surface), Velodrome, Indoor Stadium and Swimming & Diving Pool for the National Games, 1997 is at various stages of development. The Kang Hall, Indoor Hall, SAI, Gallery, SAI and Indoor Hall are in the finishing stage. Overall Progress on infrastructure is satisfactory.

(d) The Central Government has taken a decision to sanction a block grant of Rs. 8.00 crores for creation of infrastructure as well as organisation of the National Games is Karnataka in 1996. As per information received from the Government of Manipur, they have received Rs. 2.00 crores from the Planning Commission for Cycle Velodrome. Besides, Central Government has released a sum of Rs. 0.875 crore out of Rs. 1.31 crores approved for construction of a State Sports Training Complex at Khuman Lampak, Imphal. However, no Central grant has yet been sanctioned to Government of Manipur for organisatin of the National Games is Imphal, 1997.

(e) Depending upon the number of sports disciplines to be included in the National Games, the requirement of playfields is decided.

Strategies for improving passenger earnings

1379. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve definite strategoies to improve passenger earnings and to plug the leakage of revenue;

(b) if so, the strategies proposed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the quantum of total loss incurred by the Railways zona-wise during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Effort to improve passenger earnings and to check losses on account of leakage of revenue is a continuous process. Intensive checking to reduce ticketless travel, issue of tickets through microprocessor based Self Printing Ticket Machines, indtroduction of Coupon Validating Machines in Suburban Sections and running of fully unreserved trains on selected routes are some of the steps taken in this direction.

(d) The quantum of total loss on Coaching Services on Indian Railways during the year 1994-95 was Rs. 1927 crores. Zonal-wise losses are not maintained.

Toxic effects of DDT

1380. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDT is toxic and has been found very injurious to health;

(b) whether it remains in the soil for years and poisons soil and water;

(c) the reasons why Government have not banned DDT which is banned in USA and other countries; and

(d) the reason for not availing of the technology developed by Prof. Anand Chakrabarty of Illinois University, USA for oil spill eating microbes in place of DDT as reported in the Times of India dated the 8th January, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Pesticides including DDT are toxic in nature. These toxic substances can be injurious to health if they are not used as per recommended practices.

(b) DDT belongs to the organochlorine group of pesticides and as such is persistent in nature. However, its degradation in tropical conditions is faster as compared to temperate regions.

(c) Continued use of DDT has been reviewed by the Government from time to time since 1984. At present, its use in public health programme is permitted upto 10,000 metric tonnes per annum. The use of DDT in Agriculture was withdrawn in May, 1989.

(d) 'Microbe' reportedly capable os breaking down DDT into a lesser harmful compound is not commercially available.

Compensation to victims of Earthquakes of Latur-Osmanabad and UttarKashi

1381. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that victims of the major earthquakes of Latur-Osmanbad belt and UttarKashi are still to get compensation and rehabilitation aid, 3-4 years after the enormous human toll;

(b) if so, the number of persons at each place still awaiting compensation and rehabilitation aid, indicating the percentage of total number of victims they constitute; and

(c) how may families have since been provided with proper housing units, indicating the Central and International aid given for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTUTE (SHRI CHATURANAN): (a) to (c) According to the information recieved from the State Governments, dependents of only 142 deceased persons in Latur and 180 in Osmanabad, representing 4.15% of of the total deceased persons are awaiting ex-gratia financial assistance. The delay is mainly because of disputes over legal heirs. Dependents of all the victims of the Uttarkashi earthquake have been provided ex-gratia financial assistnace.

An Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation programme costing Rs. 1181.81 crores is under implementation for rehabilitation of the victims of Maharashtra earthquake of September, 1993. The programme is financed 75% by the International Development Association credit, 12% by the contribution of the Government of Maharashtra, o.5% by the contribution of the Government of India and 12.5% by the donors including Overseas Development Agency, U.K., and the Asian Development Bank. Under the programmes, 13826 houses have so far been constructed out of the targeted